close touch with each other's activities and needs. 621

These residence arrangements had considerable bearing on the amount of help at hand for a pregnant, parturient, or lactating woman, especially since every woman expected to bear her child at home. A woman's first child was often born while she was still resident in the house of her parents or parents-in-law. If the separate household had been set up, and especially if there were other small children, a parturient's mother or other relative came to stay with her for delivery and post-delivery care, or a woman might return to her parental or her husband's home for the event. In fact, since husbands and wives were both needed in the fields, it took great diligence for a woman, without extra kinfolk in the house, to carry on child-care, cooking, and field-work, and then undergo child-bearing besides. The extensive overlap in the division of labor (Sharp et al. 1953:94-98), though, resulted in much sharing by husbands in the household chores, so that the burdens were somewhat eased. Help in child-birth was one of the areas of mutual aid freely accorded by neighbors, so all women could count on adequate or even ample help at this time. 621 844 592 844 476 593 [462]

Wealth Differences:

Way of Life 556 875 441

Real polarities of wealth existed. A well-to-do person owned rice fields, a good house, and had many devoted kinsmen. Teachers who were governmental civil servants and a few of the traders were somewhat better off because they had regular sources of cash. A poor man, owning no land, lived humbly and hired out at day labor and other odd jobs. Yet the way of life of the well-to-do was not very different from that of the poor. Practically all persons worked in the fields or at related activities, wore the same cotton clothes, and ate the same food. Rice was plentiful. Fish, fruit, vegetables, and fuel could be amply obtained practically without cost, though it was also possible to spend money on these. Yet here and there persons were beginning to lose their old satisfaction in life as a farmer. Changes were beginning to come in, heralded by such things as hair permanently waved, gasoline pressure-lamps, increased geographical and political awareness, grumbling over the cost of living, and frustration over rising expectations. Urban life as met with in Bangkok was viewed with some awe as a glittering universe with different ideas and needs, yet also with some uneasiness. The city dwellers sometimes looked down on the country dwellers and made them feel uncomfortable. [464] 556 511 178 369

125
[513] f. During the last year, did it occur to you frequently, sometimes, or never that you had a nightmare?

4.	Frequently	16
5.	Occasionally	120
6.	Never	197

[546] 35. In your life, how many times have you seen a movie, or haven't you ever seen one?

5.	Ten times and more	161
6.	4 to 9 times	60
7.	1 to 3 times	75
8.	Never	33
—	No Answer	4

[426] 36.a. Excuse me, I'd like to ask about a problem common in rural places all over the world. Do you now have a debt or not?

5.	Yes	192
6.	No	140
7.	Unascertainable	1

b. IF YES: Is your debt now higher, or lower, or about the same as it was two years ago?

8.	Higher	68
9.	Lower	95
X.	About the same	28
Y.	Unascertainable	1

c. IF NO: How about two years ago, did you have a debt then or not?

9.	Yes	61
X.	No	78
Y.	Unascertainable	—
—	No Answer	1

[441] 37.a. Do you or anybody in your household buy certain products in order to resell them at a profit?

9.	Yes	85
X.	No	242
Y.	Unascertainable	2
—	No Answer	4

b. IF YES: Do (you/they) sell things regularly, occasionally or just at festival times?

7.	Regularly	31
8.	Occasionally	49
9.	Just at festival times	5
X.	Unascertainable	—

[241] 38.a. And now, I would like to know a little more about fertiliser. Do you think fertiliser is very good, fairly good or bad?

1.	Very good	106
2.	Fairly good	149
3.	Bad	15
4.	Unascertainable	63

7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
Bangchan

243 441 Before War II, the problem in rice marketing had been one of alleged usurpation by the Chinese middlemen -- the rice dealers and the millers. Expert organizational ability, it has been observed, has put the Chinese in control over the internal rice trade of the country. Even now, all the five rice dealers operating in Bangchan are Chinese, and the three largest rice mills in the market town of Minburi are owned and operated by the Chinese. The other rice mill -- the smallest of the four in operation in Minburi -- is owned by a Moslem.

243 441 435 563 Ingram observes that the postwar system has had the effect of increasing the number of Thai middlemen and exporters. The fixed buying price of the Rice Office introduced a degree of stability into the paddy market and enabled Thai middlemen to compete with the Chinese. Formerly, the price of paddy fluctuated wildly from place to place and from month to month because of the variety of measures used in buying it, because of seasonal variations, and because of the many transactions involving merchandise or loans. Thai middlemen did not have the working capital, the experience, or the trading ability to compete with the Chinese under those conditions. But when the millers' buying prices became fixed within narrow limits for long periods, the middleman function was greatly simplified. No doubt other factors were involved, but people in the rice trade consider the greater stability of prices to be of major importance in the rise of Thai middlemen.[7]

7. Ibid., p. 92.

*243 • 441 663

Relative to the enormous problem created by export and exchange control, the internal marketing problem now appears to be small at least in its relative effect on rice growers. It is true that the Chinese combines in the forms of Rice Dealers' Association and Rice Mills' Association have consolidated economic influence in favor of the Chinese middlemen in Bangkok. But it is equally true that competition among the Chinese rice dealers and millers in the countryside also has worked to the advantage of growers.

It has been observed that the Chinese dealers in Bangchan offer prices to farmers that scarcely differ from prices that the farmers could get from the millers if they were to break the existing pattern and deal directly with the millers themselves. This would often be possible because most of the local farmers possess the large chala boats needed to convey paddy to the mills which are only a few miles away. Actually, the Chinese rice dealers and Bangchan farmers have been observed to be in a rather efficient state of economic symbiosis that compares favorably [186] with most inter-ethnic divisions of labor. Further attestation is found in that there appears to be extremely little anti-Chinese sentiment among the villagers, and this is despite the fact that the national government has from time to time taken somewhat spirited measures against the [426] Chinese. The favors, non-interest bearing loans, and good will gestures accorded the Thai farmers by local Chinese dealers should also be taken into consideration.